



# FACTS

about  
Connecticut  
Women

**Connecticut General Assembly**  
**Permanent Commission on the Status of Women**  
18-20 Trinity Street ■ Hartford, CT 06106  
Phone: 860.240.8300 ■ Fax: 860.240.8314  
E-mail: [pcsw@cga.ct.gov](mailto:pcsw@cga.ct.gov)  
Web address: [www.cga.ct.gov/PCSW](http://www.cga.ct.gov/PCSW)

## Trafficking in Persons

In October 2004, the Connecticut Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, chaired by Senator Andrea L. Stillman (D-20), convened and began the task of studying the problem of human trafficking in Connecticut.

### Definition of trafficking

- The buying, transporting and selling of a human being for forced labor or sex

### Some facts about trafficking

- U.S. Government estimates that between 600,000 – 800,000 people were trafficked globally in 2003
- Of that number, 80% of victims were female and 70% were trafficked for sexual exploitation
- An estimated 14,500 – 17,500 victims were trafficked in the U.S. in 2003
- As of January, 2004, the Department of Justice filed charges against 111 traffickers, of which 79 included sex-trafficking allegations

### Why focus on trafficking in Connecticut?

- The State Department defines the U.S. as a trafficking “destination country,” suggesting that state legislatures have a role both in prosecuting traffickers within their borders and in providing services for women and girls who have been trafficked in their states.
- With two Interstate highways, Connecticut is a corridor between Boston and New York City, both major destinations for traffickers. Additionally, Connecticut has an international airport and three ports through which people can enter the state.
- Trafficking in persons undermines public safety, public health, social cohesion, and human rights and equality, all problems that should concern Connecticut residents.

## Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons Timeline of Activities

- March 2003 – Representative Andrea L. Stillman (D-38) hosts a briefing regarding trafficking of women and children presented by Dr. Leslie R. Wolfe, President of the Center for Women Policy Studies. Stillman also convenes a Legislative Study Committee to study the issue of trafficking in Connecticut.
- February 2004 – Legislative Study Committee makes its final recommendations to the Connecticut General Assembly, introducing *An Act Establishing An Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons* (Special Act 04-8).
- May 2004 – The Connecticut General Assembly enacts Special Act 04-8 and the Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons is created. The task force will research the extent of trafficking in Connecticut, as well as measure and evaluate the progress of the state in preventing trafficking, protecting and providing assistance to victims of trafficking, and prosecuting persons engaged in trafficking. Existing state criminal statutes will be analyzed for their adequacy in addressing trafficking.
- October 2004 – The Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons officially convenes, elects Senator-Elect Andrea L. Stillman (D-20) as Chair, and lays out its work plan:
  - **Fall/Winter 2004**
    - ◆ Presentations by Krishna Patel, Assistant U.S. Attorney; Dr. Leslie Wolfe, President, Center for Women Policy Studies; and Toshiyuki Niwa, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF
    - ◆ Enforcement Committee begins the specific task of analyzing the adequacy of current state laws to address trafficking; Victim Services Committee begins the specific task of determining what types of services are needed for trafficking victims in Connecticut
  - **Spring/Summer 2005**
    - ◆ Public hearing to hear from the community
    - ◆ Additional presentations and Committee reports
    - ◆ Begin drafting final report of the Task Force
  - **Fall 2005**
    - ◆ Discussion of final report and public hearing, if necessary
    - ◆ Adoption of final report by Task Force to be presented to the General Assembly on January 1, 2006